

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR. PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: Daily Bee (without Sunday), One Year, \$4.00...

THE CRY OF DOUBLE TAXATION.

The manifesto issued by the railroad tax agents in opposition to the revision of revenue laws by which Nebraska railroads have for years evaded municipal taxation on property valued from \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000 is a false alarm to justify purchasable members of the legislature for selling out the people.

It is true that the payment of city taxes at Omaha, South Omaha and Lincoln would transfer the money now being paid into the county and school district treasuries outside of Douglas and Lancaster counties into the city treasuries of Omaha, South Omaha and Lincoln, what difference would that make to the railroads so long as the aggregate of their taxes was not increased?

EXPLANES SCOPE OF COMMISSION.

The measure passed by the United States senate, known as the Elkins bill, provides for enlarging the jurisdiction and powers of the Interstate Commerce commission and contains the provisions which have been recommended by Attorney General Knox as to the punishment of those who receive as well as those who give rebates.

Willful failure on the part of any carrier subject to the acts to regulate interstate and foreign commerce to file and publish the tariffs or rates and charges, as required by the acts, or strictly to observe such tariffs, shall be a misdemeanor, conviction of which shall subject the offending corporation to a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$20,000 for each offense.

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Hippies on the Current of Life in the Metropolis. The activity of housebreakers of late brought down upon the police the undiluted wrath of the victims.

Holders of stock in the Woman's Hotel company have received notice that the Hotel Martha Washington, the East Twenty-ninth street hotel built by that company for use by women, is ready for inspection.

OUR AMBASSADOR'S LEGS.

Mysterious Effect of the Costume by Mr. McCormick. Washington Post. We should really like to secure some definite information touching the costume in which Mr. Robert McCormick, our ambassador to Petersburg, appeared at the Kuznetsov court a few days ago.

This is the age of cheap dentistry in New York—cheap that is to say in comparison with the prices which once prevailed. The visit to the dentist was an excruciation formerly dreaded as much for the aftermath that came by mail as for the physical discomfort that the visitor was certain to undergo.

PROSPERITY'S GOLDEN GUARANTY.

Increasing Output of Gold a Sign of Great Promise. New York World. One indication that prosperity will remain with us for a long time to come deserves to be noted—the rapidly increasing output of gold.

Historians have noted the invariable coincidence of increased gold mining with good times. California and Australia gave us in the late '40s and early '50s our last "golden age" of prosperity. The present one promises to be longer and greater.

STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss. George B. Tzschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full copies of the Bee published during the month of January, 1903, was as follows:

Net total sales, 381,007. Net average sales, 30,051. GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK, Notary Public.

Coal dealers' lament: We don't care if the mercury never comes back. For the time being, "Keep off the grass" signs are a little out of season.

They will now cease raising blind pigs in Vermont and turn more attention to the raising of other animals. It is not always the biggest world power that cuts the biggest swath in current history. Witness Venezuela.

After the horse show shall have become acclimated in Omaha, perhaps we can branch out to an automobile show. The squabble over the management of the Red Cross society appears to be a quarrel chiefly as to who shall handle the funds.

News from the rebel provinces of China indicate that the foreign devils are still persona non grata in those parts of the Flowery Kingdom. The resolutions adopted by the democratic state editorial association at Grand Island with regard to the infamous manipulation of the corporation lobby have the right ring.

Another Nebraska district judge has resigned. While no reasons are given, we feel safe in asserting that the resignation is not prompted by any feeling that district judges in this state are either overworked or underpaid.

Every time a person owning property in Omaha pays his city taxes, one dollar out of every five which he pays is paid for the tax-shirking railroads. But that is a form of double taxation that does not distress John N. Baldwin of Iowa.

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Republican city primaries have been postponed two months to conform more nearly with the new law moving the city election up from March to May. This is simply taking chances with April showers rather than with winter winds.

For hours Tuesday Chicago was cut off by the storm from all communication with the outside world. And for some inexplicable reason the world moved right along as if it were not seriously aware of the plight in which it was left.

His communication to the Board of Education on the bad penmanship of High school teachers and pupils would indicate that Superintendent Pearce were again falling into the bad habit of sending out official documents without first having them revised and corrected by his private secretary.

Ambassador McCormick explains his appearance in gormecious regalia at the Russian court on the score of the czar's insistence upon uniforms for the diplomats in attendance there. The alacrity with which the suggestion of a uniform was adopted, however, indicates that the czar's wishes were not in the least distasteful to our ambassador.

"The railroads have no newspapers of their own to present their case," declares Pompadour Baldwin of the Union Pacific lobby as an excuse for his course attempt to buy the editorial columns of all the country newspapers of the state. But if the railway case were the people's case, as Baldwin pretends, what necessity would there be to buy up any newspapers at all? Has anyone ever heard of any money being put up to the country papers to persuade them to plead the cause of the common taxpayers?

It is given out that the farmers of Douglas county outside of Omaha and South Omaha are opposed to the plan of consolidating city and county governments and will exert themselves against it at the legislature. In point of fact, it is not consolidation that they oppose, but the possible separation of the county into two districts that would detach the two cities of Omaha and South Omaha from them.

The railroads of the country are forming an association to protect themselves against the perpetration of frauds in the use of railway tickets, which during the past year are said to have involved them in a loss approximating \$100,000. This is really not very much of a loss when the tremendous passenger business done in the United States is taken into consideration.

Germany's experiment with automobiles for the postal service has not proved the success that was expected. It will take Yankee ingenuity yet to perfect the self-propelling machine for practical use and the American post-office to apply it effectively to the needs of postal distribution.

The Hon. James K. Jones thinks a drifting policy is the best thing for the democrats at present. In the meantime, the gentleman from Arkansas hopes to drift onto the Isthmian Canal commission.

Some distinguished democrats had a conference over breakfast at a swell New York place the other day. Here we have an illustration of prosperity. In democratic times it would probably have been necessary to hold the conference in a soup house.

Orders have been issued to have 100,000 Krag-Jorgensen rifles distributed among the various arsenals of the country, and for the navy yards to work three shifts of men; but there is nothing doing, absolutely nothing. It would be a time of peace well adapted to preparation.

Senator Colton, chairman of the foreign relations committee, has pleonastically a house bill granting permission to a number of government officials to accept decorations, orders and gifts tendered to them by the rulers of other nations, and says that no bill shall be passed while he is chairman of the committee. It is an un-American practice and had better be reformed altogether.

Unfortunately, the trusts are in the hands of men whose huge projects have developed a little too rapidly, and who have become wholly impatient of any sort of check or restraint. Some of them, perchance, have been intoxicated by the extraordinary access of power that has come to them, and others have built up a false pride that makes them forgetful of their places as individual citizens in a democracy.

Hats off to Mrs. H. A. Harrison. The story of her work as an angel of mercy at that wreck on the Jersey Central first gives you a glow in your heart, and then makes you want to cheer. When the terrible crash took place she was in her backyard, which is situated near the track. She didn't lose time going through the house, but, seizing an axe, cut her way through the back fence.

Why should the object of stigmatizing the demand for railroad taxation on the constitutional basis as the Omaha plan is to arouse the prejudice of the representatives in the legislature from outside of Omaha against Omaha and array the state against Omaha, on the presumption that Omaha is trying to levy a tribute on the railroads that would come out of the pockets of the taxpayers of other sections of the state.

With sublime impudence John N. Baldwin cries out the Omaha plan means double taxation. How about the Council Bluffs plan? Council Bluffs is permitted to assess the Union Pacific railroad within the city limits at \$75,000 per mile and the east half of the Union Pacific bridge for \$87,000, while Omaha, on the Baldwin plan, is allowed to tax Union Pacific terminal tracks at \$0.80 per mile, which would tax the west half of the Union Pacific bridge on a valuation of only \$1,565.

Wherein does the Omaha plan contemplate double taxation? Property in Omaha, Lincoln, Beatrice, Hastings and every other town in Nebraska pays state taxes, county taxes and city taxes. Is that double taxation or is it treble taxation? Is it not simply taxation according to the character of the public service rendered? The Union Pacific has always been compelled to pay its

proportion of city taxes in Omaha, Grand Island and North Platte on its machine shops. Is that double taxation? People unfamiliar with the modes of taxation in other states would naturally imagine that the Omaha plan was a monstrous, when in fact in all the older states of the union, in New England, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, the Omaha plan has prevailed for forty years or more.

It is not consolidation that they oppose, but the possible separation of the county into two districts that would detach the two cities of Omaha and South Omaha from them. So long as the county and city are in one district taxes paid by city property owners furnish a huge fund that is expended chiefly for the benefit of the people in the county outside of the city. They are not to be blamed if they prefer not to give up this great advantage they have been enjoying, yet that should not stand in the way of legislation making it possible to merge the city and county governments with a view to more economical administration.

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THE OMAHA DAILY BEE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1903. THE OLD RELIABLE ROYAL BAKING POWDER Absolutely Pure THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE